

America keeps President Obama in the White House

Written by Wauneta Breeze
Thursday, 08 November 2012 17:18 -

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Unofficial Chase County election results by precinct are available on page 8 of the print and e-edition.*

By Russ Pankonin

The Imperial Republican

President Barack Obama won another four years in the White House in Tuesday's General Election.

Obama defeated former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney.

As of Wednesday morning, Barack had won 303 electoral college votes, eclipsing the needed 270 votes to retain his job.

However, Obama's margin of victory Tuesday fell far short of the landslide that swept Obama into office in 2008.

In that election, Obama swept Sen. John McCain with 365 electoral votes compared to McCain's 173.

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With some states yet to tabulate all votes, Obama prevailed in the popular vote, with a 50.3 percent to 48.1 percent margin.

Democrats also retained control of the Senate while the Republicans retained control of the House of Representatives.

Many voters want to see Congress and the president break the gridlock that has marked Obama's first term.

Fischer wins Senate race

Nebraskans voted Tuesday to send a Republican to represent Nebraska in the U.S. Senate. Former state senator Deb Fischer claimed a landslide victory over Bob Kerrey, a former Nebraska governor and two-term U.S. Senator in a hotly contested race.

While polls showed that Kerrey had closed the gap to single digits, Fischer's campaign said their own polling showed a 16 percent margin.

When all the votes were counted, Fischer won 58.18 percent of the state's votes compared to 41.82 percent for Kerrey.

The U.S. senate seat opened up when two-term Democratic Senator Ben Nelson opted not to seek re-election the body.

Constitutional amendments

Nebraskans approved two constitutional amendments while turning down two others.

When it comes to the state legislature, Nebraskans still feel state senators don't need any more than \$12,000 per year to do their job. A proposal to raise senators' salaries to \$22,500 went down hard with 68 percent of voters saying no.

Voters also voted decidedly to keep the term limits for senators at two consecutive four-year terms.

Amendment 1 that would allow impeachment of civil officers for acts committed while running for office gained approval with 83 percent of the votes.

Voters also put the right to hunt, fish and harvest wildlife into the Constitution with 77 percent voting in favor of the measure.

Voter turnout strong

Voter turnout in Chase County came in at 72.5 percent, according to Chase County Clerk and Election commissioner Debbie Clark. That compares to 69 percent in the last presidential election.

A total of 2,572 people were registered to vote in the county with 1,866 casting ballots.

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A total of 370 voters, or 14.3 percent, cast their ballot early. That was up from 321 in the 2008 election.

Statewide, voter turnout totalled 66.96 percent, according to the Secretary of State's office. That compares to a 68 percent turnout in 2008.